

WAGE OF TOILERS

Ninth Report of the State Commissioner of Labor.

GRAND RAPIDS IN FRONT RANK

Women are Best Paid in the Valley City—Growth of the State—Condition of the Farmers.

LANSING, Feb. 21.—The advance sheets of the ninth annual report of the commissioner of labor were given to the press today. The full report will be ready for distribution in a few days.

It deals with women's work and the conditions surrounding the female wage workers of Michigan; the number, progress and result of the strikes throughout this state, the United States and foreign countries for the past twelve months; a compendium of the eight previous labor reports; the labor laws of the state; the number of mortgages placed upon Detroit property the past seven years; the number of property owners in Detroit; the state debt; the cost and income of the railroads of Michigan and railroad statistics of the United States and Great Britain, the assessed and true value of the state divided into land value, improvements, values and personalities; statistics of crime; the wealth Michigan has in her mineral and pine lands and a number of other subjects of minor importance, in all covering some 475 pages.

What Women Earn.

For the information concerning women's work, 13,436 persons were canvassed, selected from the principal cities, mainly in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Bay City, Jackson, Ypsilanti, Muskegon, Owosso, Lansing, Pontiac, Rochester, etc. The women of the state average in wages 79 cents per day; in Detroit they average 75 cents per day; Grand Rapids, 93; Saginaw, 79; Rochester, 67; Ypsilanti, 59. The lowest wage was \$1 per week, or 16 cents per day in Bay City and Saginaw. The highest wage was \$18.75 per week. In both instances only a very few received the highest or the lowest wage.

Only 181 of the 13,436 canvassed acknowledged to being under 12 years of age, while 8,676 were between 13 and 18. Five commenced work at 8 years of age, and one at 53. Of those reporting, 3,724 were born in Michigan, and 3,813 in the United States. The single were 10,641, the married 44, and the widows 489.

There are in the report nearly 200 pages of statistics and remarks regarding women, their work, surroundings and conditions and the healthfulness of their work. The information is very complete. It even gives the number who must reach up in doing their work and also the number who stoop over. Some of the number also report whether or not they wear corsets. These questions were instigated by lady doctors, who wished to ascertain if wearing apparel of this description was injurious to working women and girls.

The chapter on mortgages and property owners in Detroit shows that over \$23,000,000 worth of mortgages were placed upon Detroit property in the past seven years, and that, notwithstanding nearly 60,000 lots were put upon the market since 1885, there has been but 17,508 additional to the property-owning class. Meantime the population has increased from 123,269 to 206,876, an increase of 72,606.

The Masses Are Landless.

The report shows that 307 persons own 82 per cent. of the real estate of Detroit. As Detroit now contains 230,000 people, the conclusion to be drawn is that 200,000 of them are landless. Much space is given to taxation and land values, particularly the taxation now pressing on the farming classes.

The report shows that real estate in the agricultural regions is assessed on an average of \$20.82 an acre; in villages, \$31.44 an acre; in cities, \$2,320 an acre; timber lands, \$13.53 an acre. The average value of the upper peninsula mineral lands in use is \$490 an acre. The average income from a farmer's acre is given at 83 cents a year; from a Detroit acre it is \$600.12. The figures given show that if personal property and improvements were exempt from taxation the farming classes would be the gainers. The land of the real estate of Detroit is equal to the land of 11,193,355 acres of farm real estate.

The section on Michigan railroads is valuable and will attract attention. The income of the roads of the state for the past year was \$36,155,108, and paid a tax of \$812,399.

Another section is devoted to showing the growth of the state by sections and by industries, comparing the year 1889 with that of 1890, which is very exhaustive in details and gives in addition some valuable figures relating to Michigan's timbered lands.

The maps and circles introduced to illustrate the tax matter are certainly very unique and show the clear knowledge Commissioner Robinson has of the question. That part of the report devoted to the question of taxation is so attractive and interesting that it is sure to command attention and set people in general to thinking and discussing these matters, which in the end will lead to a solution of this vexed question for the equalization of taxes.

MAINE FOR HARRISON.

New York Will Indorse the Administration.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—A solid delegation for Harrison from Maine is what Senator Hale and Joe Manley have promised the president and his friends. They propose to have an early convention and set the ball rolling for the renomination of Harrison and Morton.

The assurances which have been given the president on this head are particularly gratifying to him.

Another bit of news which comes from the white house is the fact that New York state will probably send a considerable number of Harrison delegates to Minneapolis.

SENATOR QUAY IS VERY SICK.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 20.—Senator QUAY is reported to be dangerously ill at St. Louis. Mrs. Quay, who was

summoned by telegraph, is now with him. The nature of the senator's illness is not known, but it is supposed to have been precipitated by the grip.

GROVER IN THE OHIO PEN.

Is What a Female Crank at Columbus Declares.

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 21.—"Grover Cleveland is confined in the Ohio penitentiary," said a well dressed and finely appearing woman who stood on the east terrace of the state house yesterday. "They are keeping him shut up in a cell, and I must go at once and get him released," she continued. To the state house policeman who questioned her the woman confessed that she was a detective of very high rank, and that she had Grover Cleveland's case in charge.

The policeman, who is something of a humorist himself, explained that Mr. Cleveland had been released from the pen yesterday and that he was now on his way to Michigan, where he and Governor Campbell were expected to make arrangements for the capture of the Ohio delegation. It was apparent that the woman was a hopeless, though harmless crank, and the patrol wagon was called to carry her to the station house. She gave a name and street address to the officers which she declared were fictitious, and her identity cannot be learned.

THE CLUB BANQUET

Everything Ready for the Great Meeting Tomorrow.

MCKINLEY AND CLARKSON

Are on the List of Speakers—The Washington Delegation on Hand—A Very Large Attendance Expected.

DETROIT, Feb. 21.—Every arrangement and preparation for the Michigan club banquet tomorrow night seems now complete. The Washington party, consisting of Senators Stockbridge and McMillan, speakers and members of congress, arrived tonight. The meeting promises to be very enthusiastic and two gentlemen at least are sure of a very warm welcome. Other speakers will doubtless make able efforts, but Governor McKinley of Ohio, and J. S. Clarkson are the ones Michigan republicans are most anxious to hear. It was not an easy matter to secure

Governor McKinley's Promise

to be here, for he is an overworked man at the capital at Columbus, and has little time to spend with his invalid wife at their beautiful home in Canton.

A favorite niece of Governor McKinley is to be named in Youngstown Tuesday, and the local committee, in order to secure his attendance, have to guarantee his return in time for this event. It is understood that this will be done by special train.

Governor McKinley will reach Detroit on Monday afternoon, and he will be taken to General Alger's residence. The Ohio republican governor will be accompanied by Attorney General J. K. Richards, Auditor General Poe, State Treasurer Cope, and Secretary of State Ryan.

Subjects of the Speeches.

He will bring his own stenographer to take down his speech, which is to be on "Protection the National Policy."

Senator John N. Dolph of Oregon, who is to speak on "Washington, the Protectionist," is, according to Governor McKinley, an unusually able orator, and it is expected he will surprise the audience. The republicans of Michigan will have a chance to hear from the new Kansas senator, B. W. Perkins, who will address them on "Washington, the Farmer and Politician."

Perhaps, next to Governor McKinley, the most enthusiastically received visitor will be J. S. Clarkson of Iowa, who will take for his theme, "Partisanship." The Hon. J. Sloot Fasset of New York has promised to talk on "Municipal Reform." Gen. Alger will preside, and the Hon. Julius Caesar Burrows is to deliver the address of welcome.

The banquet will begin promptly at 6:30 o'clock local time. Tickets for the banquet will be furnished only to members of the club in good standing.

Very Large Attendance.

The fact that this is a presidential year probably accounts for much of the unusual stir and the prospect of the greatest attendance ever known at these banquets. The seventh annual banquet of the Michigan club may be famous in the history of the republican party. It will be remembered that four years ago, a citizen from Indiana who called himself a "decayed statesman" made a speech at the Michigan banquet and soon after was elected president of the United States. Other states have taken the hint and are flocking to the City of the Straits. Even if no president is made here next Monday night, it is probable that the keynote of the approaching campaign will be sounded.

The importance of the event is fully appreciated. The Michigan club's membership has recently been increased by 200. Saginaw and Bay City republicans ask for 100 seats. Battle Creek wants 50. The Lincoln club of Pontiac will fill one table. Lapeer and St. Clair have asked for 20 seats. The University boys will ply forks over 300 plates. Grand Rapids will send 50 republicans. Caro at least 20 and Ann Arbor 30. It is probable that extra tables will be needed and 1200 people will sit down to the banquet.

THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED.

Alliance Leaders Think They See the Beginning of the End.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Nearly all the farmers' alliance people have left for St. Louis to attend the great convention called by the Ocala meeting of a year ago. They do not go, however, with expectation of results which were looked for when the convention was called. At that time it was expected the party would be strong enough to carry several states for president by this time, and no doubt they then felt so.

As to the nomination of alliance candidates, leaders, however, leave here very blue and admitting there is little probability that a ticket will be nominated or, if so, that it will cut any figure in the election. This will probably be the expiring struggle of the alliance.

IS THIS ALWAYS SO

Asks the Son of an English Sire as He Listens to

OUR SOCIETY TALK POLITICS

The Friends of General Alger's Much Pained and Grieved at the N. Y. Sun's Attack—Foreigners Disgusted.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—At a dinner, the other day, the gentleman who sat at my left was one of those individuals upon whom most of us look with a greater or less degree of envy, and say of him as he passes by, "There is a man upon whom fortune has smiled from the hour of his birth." My friend was an Englishman, the son of a noble sire, who left him enough and to spare. He was educated at an English university, and then taking a course in Germany, was a draftsman in the world with one thing uppermost in his mind, and that is to discover some preventive of the annual He was not used to Washington life, and the ways and everlasting talk of politicians. Said he to me: "Does this continue always? Do people never get together at the dinner table or in the drawing room without talking politics? Is there not some circle of society in Washington where political talk and gossip is eschewed?" I answered no to the two first questions, and to the last I replied that I had heard of one class of society wherein little heed was even given to matters of state; that the people who constituted this class were the ignorant negroes who lived in the alleys and along the river. They neither read nor write, are half brute, and it is a cold night when in a row among themselves is poor brute not shot or stabbed to death. These, I said, are the only people in Washington who do not everlastingly

Talk of Political Affairs.

Upon an occasion I took my neighbor's breath away, but I told him the truth nevertheless. Washington is the greatest capital of the greatest nation on earth, and more bright and wide awake people are congregated here, I believe, than in any other capital city. With the aid of the papers and the usual gossip, every intelligent man and woman keeps pretty thoroughly posted regarding all that transpires; and knowing of public affairs, the people all discuss them, much to the disgust at times, and surprise at all times, of the foreigner who comes among us. Washington has of late been having a succession of interesting events to discuss over the dinner tables, the latest and most interesting being the Sun attack upon

General Alger's Military Record.

The surprise of all, and the consternation of many of the general's friends upon the appearance of the article in question can be hardly described. The general has scores of warm, intimate friends here, who at once denounced the charges as malicious, and instigated by some one who was interested in Harrison's nomination. It was argued that Blaine's letter having precipitated the contest for the presidential nomination, things were taking on a hue not pleasant for Harrison to contemplate, and it was determined by some of his friends to extinguish Alger's ambition by a single "coup" in other words, he was to be ruined socially and politically. In olden times the same kind of men used to do it differently. Then they quietly waited for a victim in the deep shadow of some building, and as he passed by, all unconscious of impending danger,

The Long, Keen Blade Was Raised

On high, where for an instant it was held, then plunged into his body, and he was no longer a stumbling block in the path of his slayer. The world has progressed, however, since those days, and now we are more refined. We wait until the victim has gained the confidence of the public, until his name is a synonym for that which we most admire in man—then we proceed to assassinate him. There is no bleeding body left upon the ground, with only the canopy of the heavens as a cover, but there are bleeding hearts, which never heal from the cruel blow. The attack upon Alger has unquestionably given him and those near and dear to him much pain, but the consolation is theirs that today no right-minded man or woman believes a word of the tale published. It has been proven false, and

The Motive for the Publication

is too apparent to give that phase of it any consideration. It is generally believed here that, now if Alger will announce that he is a candidate he will give Harrison a close race. The boom-crang has come back and the Harrison people are hard hit. I am told by a man who knows, that Harrison is anxiously awaiting an opportunity to give an expression of condemnation of the attack, but so long as neither Alger nor any of his responsible friends will talk he cannot with propriety do so. The net result of this affair is that, now everybody knows what many never knew before, and that is, that Alger was a fighter from "way back." There was nothing in his whole career but what is honorable, and today next to Blaine he has more friends than any man in this country.

THE COAL COMBINATION

Is Regarded With Suspense by Operators in Stocks—The London Market.

New York, Feb. 20.—The hurricane of excitement raised by last week's announcement of the anthracite combination, has abated. Fortunately it has left behind no wrecks; nor has it much disturbed the even tenor of securities not directly affected by the operation. The anthracite issues themselves, however, are left in anything but a settled position. The large holders of them directly associated with the amalgamation no doubt expected to unload the major portion of their holdings upon outsiders; but the very magnitude of the scheme rather alarmed than fascinated ordinary operators, and the rank and file have prudently preferred to wait until they better understand what the surprise really means and what is likely to be its upshot. The symptoms of a desire to unload these immense holdings have been very manifest in a steady decline of Reading from 65 to 57. The prevailing feeling in Wall Street toward the anthracite stocks is a natural one of distrust. The amalgamation is regarded as a dubious experiment. It is viewed as a fresh attempt to galvanize

Reading into life, after the failure of one equally sanctioned by great names, bolstered by splendid promises and executed at a cost of some millions four years. In fact, Wall Street has come to regard all tinkered railroads with extreme caution, as not one in five of them realizes the large promises made for them by the highly reputable galvanizers.

The formation of this anthracite combination adds \$362,500,000 to this experimental list of security. In judging when these stocks may be expected to prove an attractive speculative purchase, it must be taken into account that the intrinsic weakness of the scheme will not be developed forthwith, and that for possibly one or more years affairs may be so managed as to make the results approximate the promises now made by the promoters of the combination.

The Reading excitement has not materially affected our relations with the London market. Some orders for these securities have been received here, but the sales at the high prices a good deal more than offset the purchases. The London market shows more steadiness and some symptoms of returning confidence in the Baring group of investments. The total amount of new loans and new companies brought out in London since Jan. 1 falls about \$19,000,000 below that for the same period of 1891; a change that would seem favorable to an increased demand for foreign investments; but it may be expected that England will discriminate against American issues until it becomes more apparent what is to be the future basis of our currency system.

HENRY CLEWS.

NO MAN SHALL DENY

The Inherent Right of the Family is Supreme.

FATHER PULCHER SPEAKS OUT

At the Dedication of St. Mary's School—He Tells Why Catholics Pay Two School Taxes.

Yesterday was a day of celebration in St. Mary's parish. The new parochial school, for which they have labored so long and so industriously, was dedicated. The building stands on Turner street. It is 71x76 feet in size and two stories high. It is equipped with all the latest paraphernalia used in school work, cost \$16,000, and, as the custom is with all Catholic institutions, was entirely free from debt when dedicated.

The ceremonies began at 2 o'clock, when all the west side Catholic societies marched from the Casino to Bishop Richter's residence and escorted him to the cathedral. The procession was headed by a band, and on the return march was gained by other societies. At the church all the Catholic societies of the city, with the exception of St. Alphonsus, were present. The marshals of the day were Wm. Druke, Frank Platte, W. Vos, B. Ottenwest, Chas. Druke, Wm. Henze and Andrew Bott. The societies were drawn up in double columns before the school building and waited the arrival of the bishop and priests from the church. At 4 o'clock several thousand people had gathered in the neighborhood and were anxiously awaiting

The Dedication Ceremonies.

A few minutes after the procession marched out of the church. It consisted of the altar boys, the monsignors and the surpliced choir, then came Bishop Richter, preceded by Fathers Schmidt and Clark, and followed by Father Pulcher and Pogonis, all dressed in their ecclesiastical robes. The procession marched into the main hall of the school building which was gayly decorated with American flags and streamers. Above the temporary altar erected in the hallway, was a picture of Washington draped with flags and evergreens.

The bishop knelt in prayer, after which the choir sang "Laud Deo." The bishop then, with the assistance of the attending priests, performed the Latin dedicatory ceremonies and pronounced the benediction upon the building and those who will shortly occupy it. A chorus of school girls sang in German, "The Lord is Mighty." Following this, Father Schmidt stepped forward in the pulpit and addressed the immense audience which had assembled outside the schoolhouse. His address was in German, and was short and earnest. He said the new school would begin its work with as strong a corps of teachers as could be found anywhere in the city. A strong effort would be made to give the best and most thorough instruction in all the things whether academic or pertaining to the tenets of their religion. He exhorted every Catholic in the parish to send his children to the new school and have them instructed in the God-given religion of their fathers as well as in the secular studies of the day.

Another chorus of school girls sang "Praise the Lord." Father Pulcher then stepped forward and addressed the audience in English. Among other things, he said: "I should prefer to give you a simple translation of Father Schmidt's speech; but I have

A Few Words of My Own

that I would like to say also. The question is sometimes asked why any people should be so ignorant and unreasonable as to pay their proportion of taxes and then make no effort to derive any benefit from them. To an outsider it may seem ridiculous that any class should pay a tax and then use another for the same purpose—two taxes for one privilege. Yet such is the case with the Catholics. Imperial England awards the money collected for school purposes, irrespective of creed. Protestant Ontario does the same. These people sneer and laugh at us because we have to pay a double proportion of taxation. We do so, but we do not do it with grace. This is a free country, but if you don't pay your taxes you will see how free it is. Your property will be sold above your head, whether you like it or not. At present there is a great famine in Russia, and we are sending them supplies to relieve the starving peasants. Suppose we should send a shipload of flour over there, and when the agents began to distribute it should ask the peasant what his religion is. Suppose the peasant said he was Protestant and the agent should say well and good; but suppose he said he was Catholic, and the agent refused him any show in the relief. Would this be just? Would anybody, Protestant or Catholic submit to seeing their creed dragged into a case like that? I should say and every sensible man would say that the relief could recognize no creed. Yet when we come into our own country, the land of the free, we find those whose business it is to relieve intellectual starvation recognizing a creed and a distinct religion in their management of the public school system. But I did not come here to pick laws in our existing institutions. I am here to congratulate St. Mary's parish. It has built a beautiful church and has now completed a beautiful school, both free from debt. How has this been done? By contributions from Catholics who were already paying their share of their public school tax. A great many people think that we Catholics are bigots to do this.

The State Has No Right.

But we hold that the state has no more right to educate our children than to feed them or nurse them. If I had a family and a man came into my house and presumed to tell me where I must educate my children I would send him out the minute he made the statement if I had to use brute force to assist me. The family is the supreme and sacred unit. It is in existence first. The state may govern the people as a whole and make laws to govern their conduct, but it has no business with the inherent rights of the family. We are masters of education, and it is wrong to take it from us. If I am a Baptist, or a Lutheran, or a Methodist, I have the right to educate my children in my creed, and if I am a Catholic I have the same privilege. There is no quarrel between Protestants and Catholics over this question. We

claim our rights, and shall have them in spite of all that united Protestantism can do against us. You must educate your children in your own belief. You can teach children the multiplication table in any school, but you cannot educate the child in the tenets of a religion. Destroy religious teaching in this country, and all you have left is confusion and anarchy. Secular education is not education. We must educate the soul. No power, imperial or otherwise, has the right to say you must educate the heart as we say.

This is why the Catholic people pay a double proportion of taxes for education and religion. We can be Americans and still be Catholics. Look at these flags above us. Why do the stars and stripes wave? To show that we as well as you are Americans. We defended our country once and we are ready to defend it again. And we stand ready to do it by the power of our religion, which is 1500 years older than Protestantism and is the religion of Christ himself."

The crowd manifested signs of strong approval after Father Pulcher's speech. The choir then chanted "Te Deum," and the bishop and his following marched to the church, where the usual religious services were held.

Goed Back On Hill.

NASHVILLE, Feb. 21.—Governor Buchanan declared today that he would rather see Horace Boies of Iowa nominated than any one else in the whole country. When he declared for Hill a few days ago it was upon the contingency that the candidate must come from New York.

WILL GO IT ALONE

The Wildcat Political Parties Will Unite in Convention.

THEY AGREE ON THREE ISSUES

The Land, Transportation and Money Schemes—The United Delegations Represent Seven Million People.

St. Louis, Feb. 21.—There will be a people's, or a third party, or an industrial presidential ticket in the field in the coming campaign. This much may be set down as a fact. A nominating convention will be held prior to the first week in June. The location of the gathering will be either in this city, Birmingham, Ala., or Atlanta, Ga. Fifteen hundred delegates to the confederated industrial conference have arrived, and several times that number are expected before the gathering assembles in the exposition building tomorrow. It is the general opinion that tomorrow's assemblage will be the biggest industrial conference ever held on earth, and that the delegates will represent organizations with an actual membership of seven millions.

Spoekmen of the single tax theorists, of the grangers, of the prohibitionists, greenbackers, bi-metalists, sub-treasurers, the anti, the Knights of Labor, anti-monopolists and women suffragists are here in full force.

How to reconcile the divergent statements was a problem that early confronted the leaders who are already on the ground, and to consider it a seven-hours conference was held with closed doors at the Riehelen.

At the outset it was announced that the people's party, as an organization, would not be officially represented in the convention, although all of the officers and most of the members of the executive committee would have seats upon the floor as delegates from other organizations. There was a consensus of opinion to the effect that the people's party would get all that it wanted, if not more. An interchange of opinion proceeded. It was developed that a majority of those present were in favor of confining the platform to three points—land, transportation and money. It was agreed that the declaration should be in favor of adopting laws prohibiting the alien ownership of land. There was a unanimity of sentiment favoring the free and unlimited coinage of silver, and the sub-treasury issue was then forced to the front. The transportation plank demands the most right, honest and just national control and supervision of all means of public communication and transportation and government ownership of same.

After an exciting and acrimonious debate a resolution was agreed to favoring the government issue of treasury notes of sufficient volume to properly transact the business of the country, such issue to be distributed on land or other approved securities. Whether the program then outlined will meet the views of the majority of the delegates is an open question. It is thought that no ticket will be nominated by that week's convention.

PALMER FOR HARRISON.

But He Thinks the N. Y. Sun's Attack Will Help Rather than Hurt Alger.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Ex-Senator Palmer was in consultation Saturday with President Harrison in regard to the \$5,000,000 appropriation asked for by the World's Fair commission, and will leave for Detroit this evening. When asked for his opinion regarding the possibilities of General Alger's nomination, he said:

"It is well understood that I have been, and am, an ardent supporter of President Harrison, and while his renomination seems more probable than that of any other man, I do not believe the New York Sun article will hurt General Alger in the least. On the contrary, I believe it will help rather than hurt him, and the most that could be made out of the whole affair, if true as charged, would be a case of mild insubordination, and even that was condoned at the time by the president, if he ever knew anything of the charges. It seems rather late to bring up charges of that kind after a lapse of thirty years."

Drifting in a Skiff.

ALTON, Ill., Feb. 21.—A fisherman noticed a boat drifting down the river here, and on approaching it the body of a middle-aged man was found lying in the bottom. The clothing indicated that the wearer had been a professional man out for a hunt. He had evidently been robbed, bound to the boat and murdered, after which the skiff was set adrift. There is no clue to his identity.

SHOT FULL OF HOLES

A Desperate Encounter With a Train Robber.

HE LAYS OUT THE MESSENGER

When Pursued He Captures an Engine—After a Wild Race Down the New York Central He Escapes.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 21.—The Rochester Express train which reaches here at 7 a. m. had an encounter with a desperate train robber, as a result of which Messenger Daniel McNery was fatally wounded. Half an hour after leaving Syracuse McNery was startled by the sound of breaking glass. He turned and was confronted by a masked robber who, on seeing the former draw his revolver, fired three shots, which took effect in different parts of McNery's body. The robber then knocked him senseless with his revolver and went to the packages in the car. The train pulled into Port Byron, where the railmen made an attempt to capture the robber, but he jumped on a freight engine standing on the track, and after accomplishing it, pulled the throttle and was soon flying down the tracks. The engineer of the express train summoned help, uncoupled his engine, and in a moment, getting close enough to the robber to keep up a running fire until near Bino Cut, where the robber, seeing his steam giving out, deserted the engine and made his escape.

CONSERVATIVE GAINS.

Two More Seats Lost by the Liberals in Ontario.

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 21.—The conservatives have made two more gains in the bye elections. South Ontario division was opened by the unseating of James I. Davidson, liberal, and East Hastings division by the death of S. B. Burdett, liberal, and the contests for these seats took place today. Both are rural divisions. In South Ontario Wm. Smith defeated Davidson by a majority of 157. Davidson's majority at the general election was 32. This division has divided its favors about equally between the two parties since Confederation. In East Hastings, W. B. North defeated W. R. Aylesworth by 175 majority. The late Mr. Burdett's majority at the last election was 51. This division has politically always been conservative, and up to 1891 invariably returned a representative of that party. In that year and in 1891 the personal popularity of Mr. Burdett secured it for the liberals.

CAN'T STEAL ELECTRICITY.

An Interesting Point Raised in a Case in St. Louis.

St. Louis, Feb. 20.—In a criminal case here brought by the Municipal Electric Light and Power company, whose electricity was alleged to have been stolen by bridging wires entering the store, before the wires entered the meter, the point was raised that electricity cannot be stolen, inasmuch as to steal there must be an asportation, which is impossible in the case of electricity, and it is not in any wise under control, and therefore not the goods, property or effects of any one. Judge Claiborne abruptly adjourned the case until he could thoroughly investigate the matter.

Canadian Railway Combine.

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 21.—There are indications, says a local paper, that the rivalry that formerly existed between the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways is at end, and the prospects are that there will be a union of these two railways. The paper goes on to show how by getting control of the Inter-Colonial railway from the federal government, these two railways, if amalgamated, would control the whole traffic in Canada and the immense advantages that would result to the stockholders through an amalgamation.

Suicide From the Grip.

DAYTON, O., Feb. 21.—Owen Smith, a prominent citizen, committed suicide this morning by shooting. He was in comfortable circumstances and aged 65 years. As the result of the grip he has been despondent, and this morning placed the muzzle of a shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. The charge blew off his entire face and top of the head. The report of the gun was not heard, and his daughter accidentally came upon the ghastly scene.

Call for a Convention.

JACKSON, Mich., Feb. 21.—A call has been issued for a mass convention to be held at K. of L. hall in this city Saturday, February 27, to organize a people's party in this county and to elect champions for the different townships and wards.